



# New Castle Crier

*The official newsletter of New Castle City*

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## Verizon FiOS TV option still unavailable

Some City residents have asked why they cannot get the new FiOS television service from Verizon. Some Verizon representatives, upon receiving inquiries, have indicated that the local government is holding up the process for this service to be offered within the City limits. This statement is untrue.

The City and Verizon began negotiating a franchise agreement around May, 2008. For any new cable-type television service to be offered, Federal rules require the service provider negotiate a franchise agreement with the municipality where the service is planned to be offered. To help the City in

this process, an attorney was hired who specializes in these matters, and had recently concluded franchise agreement negotiations between the City of Dover and Verizon.

Things went along relatively smoothly for most of the process, and in fact all matters except one clause had been tentatively settled upon by the parties. Both parties stood their ground on the last issue, a clause called, "Liquidated Damages". This section, which the City requested be included in the agreement, would require Verizon to pay the City in the event Verizon violates the franchise agreement and does

not correct the violation within a reasonable period of time.

The proposed amount is \$100 per day for each day of violation. This is a minuscule amount for a company the size of Verizon. Verizon would be required to make these payments only in a situation where they violated the agreement for an extended period of time without correction, and only after a public hearing on the matter.

Verizon refused to agree to this clause, mainly because the City does not have a similar section in our current agreement with Verizon's main competi-

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## Skunk concerns

The City has received some calls concerning skunks. The City sought advice from Mr. Eugene Moore, DNREC Wildlife Administrator.

Mr. Moore said it is unlikely skunks could be eliminated from inside City limits. He noted as long as suitable habitat exists, all over the City, skunks will live here.

Mr. Moore provided us information compiled by James E. Knight, Wildlife Specialist. According to Mr. Knight, "The occasional problems caused by

the presence of skunks are generally outweighed by their beneficial habits." Some of those habits include, "...feeding on large numbers of...garden pests", including mice, rats, moles and grubs.

Residents can take steps to discourage skunks around their properties. Sufficient quantities, replaced regularly, of moth balls or flakes may work. Ammonia-soaked cloths may also repel skunks.

For prevention, properly dispose of garbage or other food sources. Skunks are attracted to

rodents in barns, crawl spaces, sheds and garages.

The City does not provide the service of skunk removal. The Yellow Pages lists companies which provide rodent removal services.

**The next  
regular  
City Council  
meeting is 7 p.m.,  
Tues., Oct. 13 at  
Town Hall**

## New Castle – The First Capital City!

## **Verizon** *continued from front page*

tor, Comcast. It should be noted, however, that Verizon has agreed in other franchise contracts to including a Liquidated Damages clause, even when other franchise agreements of Verizon's competitors in the same municipalities do not have this. For example, the City of Dover has this clause in the Verizon agreement, even though no such clause is in the Dover Comcast agreement. Since this is the case, the City cannot understand why Verizon will not agree to New Castle having the same protection and remedy for contract violations available to us.

Of course, much of this work occurred under the direction of the Council members in office from April, 2007 through April 2009. When the new Council convened in April, 2009, the new

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### **Saturday, October 10 is the Historic New Castle Kitchen To Garden Tour!**

Don't miss a Walking Tour of Historic New Castle's most exciting Kitchens in Challenging Spaces and Gateways to Secret Gardens

#### **Pre-Tour Party on Friday, October 9 A Night Of Secret Indulgences**

*Events sponsored by New Castle Library Friends*  
Proceeds from both events benefit the Library Expansion

The New Castle Library Friends group plans to create a Secret Garden as an outside reading section catering mostly to children.

Help us toward our goal  
and then please come and visit.

For more information and ticket sales visit  
[www.NewCastleLibraryFriends.org](http://www.NewCastleLibraryFriends.org)

### **Senior Center Harvest Bazaar**

**Saturday, October 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Featuring homemade baked goods, handmade crafts, books, gently used items and more!

Sponsored by New Castle Senior Center ♦ 326-4209  
400 South Street (across from Goodwill Fire Company)

### **Scare up used eyewear on sight night**

Girl Scout troop 927 will once again be hosting and participating in Sight Night—a national program sponsored by OneSight and Lions Clubs International. On Sight Night (Halloween), Girl Scouts go door-to-door collecting used prescription eyewear and non-prescription sunglasses. This year, other troops, as well as Honor Societies from local schools, have been recruited to help.

Council President reached out to a Verizon representative and invited her to attend a City Council meeting, in hopes of continuing dialog and successfully concluding negotiations. At first this invitation was accepted. Not too long in advance of the meeting, however, the Verizon representative called to say it would not serve her company's interests to attend the meeting, and therefore she was canceling her appearance.

The City has continued attempts through various avenues to keep the lines of communication open and to have Verizon return to the negotiating table to see if our differences could be worked out. We realize some New Castle residents welcome this competition and choice in television service, and we expect that Verizon would welcome new customers within the City.

Within the past month, our attorney learned that Verizon has placed many franchise negotiations on hold as it reevaluates its approach to the cable franchise process. New Castle is hoping that once the company is ready to resume these processes, that the agreement with our City will be among the first and made a priority to complete in the near future.

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### **New Castle Area CROP Walk**

**Sunday, October 18 at 1 p.m.**

On Sunday, October 18th, New Castle Area Churches join thousands of communities around the country in a 5K fundraising walk to fight hunger and poverty. Funds support Church World Service's national and international emergency relief programs, with 25 percent of funds raised locally going to help Food Bank of Delaware and Emmanuel Dining Room. This year dogs are welcome to walk, and you can even sponsor your favorite pooch!

For information on walking or sponsoring a walker, please call New Castle United Methodist Church office at 328-2207.

All collected eyewear will be given to the local Lion's Club (New Castle Hundred) and they will turn them in to be cleaned and recycled for use at One Sight Global Clinics, where they are hand-delivered to those in need.

Please ask friends, family and co-workers for any used glasses they could give you to give to us. Help us to make this the biggest collection ever!

If we miss your house on that night, please call Miss Nan at 322-7947, and they will be picked up!